

# NORTH MISSION NEWS

NORTH MISSION ASSOCIATION

3004 16th STREET

SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94103 Tel. (415) 626 2882

Editor-in-Chief  
Victor Miller

January 1987

Portrait: Armando Rascon, Painter (Curator of 'Art After Eden')



MICHELLE MARIA BOLEYN

## NONPROFITS REBUILD THE MISSION

MISSION NON-PROFIT HOUSING:  
THE THRILL OF VICTORY, THE AGONY OF REAGANISM

As the myth of prosperity unravels into threads of hundred dollar dinners for the welfare bureaucrats while people sleep in caves, official charity in its appointed season has smiled three times upon the Magi of non-profit housing in the Mission.

"We're very much in favor of assisting housing and there is a great need in the Mission," advises Elise Rossen of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Economic Development (MOHED), which agency is the major conduit for non-profit housing funds. All three established Mission non-profits have been granted funding for new or rehabilitated projects that will retard, if not reverse, the growing homelessness existing in the Mission, San Francisco and the nation.

But in the long-run, housing experts have less cause for optimism. Federal Community Block Grant Development (CBGD) funds are gradually shrinking as the Reagan era enters its seventh year. Other funding sources may be impacted by changes in the tax laws. And locally, the Mayor and top housing officials are giving consideration to an option to consolidate the functions of such agencies as MOHED, Redevelopment and the Office of Community Development (OCD). The outcome will determine whether many San Franciscans have a place to sleep next Christmas.

### ARRIBA JUNTOS: MISSION-CAPP

The vacant lot on Mission Street between 17th and 18th where the Mirian Apartments burned down over twenty years ago has primarily been known as a repository for rotting produce from the market next door. Soon, however, the 47-unit Mission-Capp apartments and 6,000 square feet of commercial space will fill this cavity.

According to Maria Pendergast of Arriba Juntos, more than half the apartments will be one-bedroom units, with five studios and eight each of two and three-bedroom units. Twenty one of the apartments have been reserved for seniors.

20% of the units (either 9 or 10) will be reserved for "low-income" tenants. Rents will range from \$433 for the studios to \$693 for three-bedroom units, assuming that no unexpected construction costs occur. The remaining apartments will be "affordable", renting from between \$450 for the studios to \$900 for the three-bedrooms.

(Government defines "low income" as being 80% of the median income of a region for a family of four which, in the Bay Area, is about \$25,000. "Very low income" is 50%.)

Arriba Juntos financed more than half the anticipated \$5 million cost of the Mission-Capp project through a bond program. MOHED's housing affordability fund contributed a million dollars and another million came from LISC, the Local Initiative Support Corp. Smaller amounts came from developer Gerson Bakar as mitigation in the construction of the 100 First Street highrise and from Arriba Juntos funds.

"We are hoping to use the building as an anchor for the redevelopment of Mission Street between 16th and 20th," said Pendergast who expects some of the commercial space to be developed as a childcare facility.

continued on page 4

## WHERE TO FIND CONTRAS IN S.F.

While the Iran-Contra arms scandal continues to unravel, we thought our readers would be interested in where to find the local chapters of groups currently engaged in an idiotic attempt to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. If, as is probably the case, we've left some out send in your own list to this paper. These guys need watching.

### (1) Tony's Imported Body Shop, 120 11th St., Phone 431-4606

The offices above this unassuming auto repair business are, to all intents and purposes, the headquarters for the Contra movement in the Bay Area. Building owner and body shop proprietor Edward "Tony" Navarro is the head of the Federacion Democratica Nicaraguense (FDN), the largest of the anti-Sandinista organizations currently fighting in Nicaragua. His second-in-command is Leo Lacayo, a Mission district educator and spokesperson for the Northern California chapter of the FDN.

### (2) CAUSA, U.S.A., 1550 California, Phone 775-0041

Members of Causa can be encountered almost every day at the 24th and Mission BART plaza collecting signatures on pro-Contra petitions and spouting a rather incoherent pseudo patriotic dribble. CAUSA U.S.A. is a political arm of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, whose members are known popularly as Moonies. CAUSA U.S.A. has been involved with the pro-Contra movement for several years. Northern California Director Robert J. Spitz attended the October 12, 1986 conference of the Contra leadership in San Francisco.

### (3) Stanford Technology Inc., 1515 South Van Ness

This security systems and electronic firm (telephone number unlisted) is co-owned by retired General Richard Secord and Albert Hakim, key players in the Iran-Contra arms scandal. Secord recently took the Fifth Amendment before a Congressional committee investigating charges that Secord and Oliver North masterminded the financing of the sale of arms to Iran. Hakim's lawyer's office in El Cerrito was burglarized in December and files allegedly relating to the Iran arms deal came up missing. When these "same" files turned up mysteriously in an airport locker several days later, they contained no reference to the Iranian affair.

In 1977, Stanford Technology employees and ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson were indicted for trying to ship restricted US computer technology to the Soviet Union.

### (4) Latin American Strategic Studies Institute (LASSI), 817 Mason Street, 928-5727

LASSI acts as the hub for pro-Contra propaganda and anti-Red hysteria in the Bay Area. Catholic priest Thomas Dowling serves as LASSI's executive director. Dowling has been associated with the Contra cause for over three years and has been a familiar figure at Contra rallies and conferences throughout the country. Dowling travels between the U.S. and Nicaragua several times a year and has given testimony at closed-door sessions of Senate subcommittees on intelligence and Western Hemisphere affairs. He, too, attended San Francisco's Contra conference on October 12. When in the U.S., Dowling resides at Holy Redeemer Church at 18th and Diamond. (4a)

### (5) Cuban Independent Democratic Party (CID), (Max Mendoza, Secretary of Public Relations, Central Exec. Committee) 243 Gambier Street, 239-7778

continued on page 2

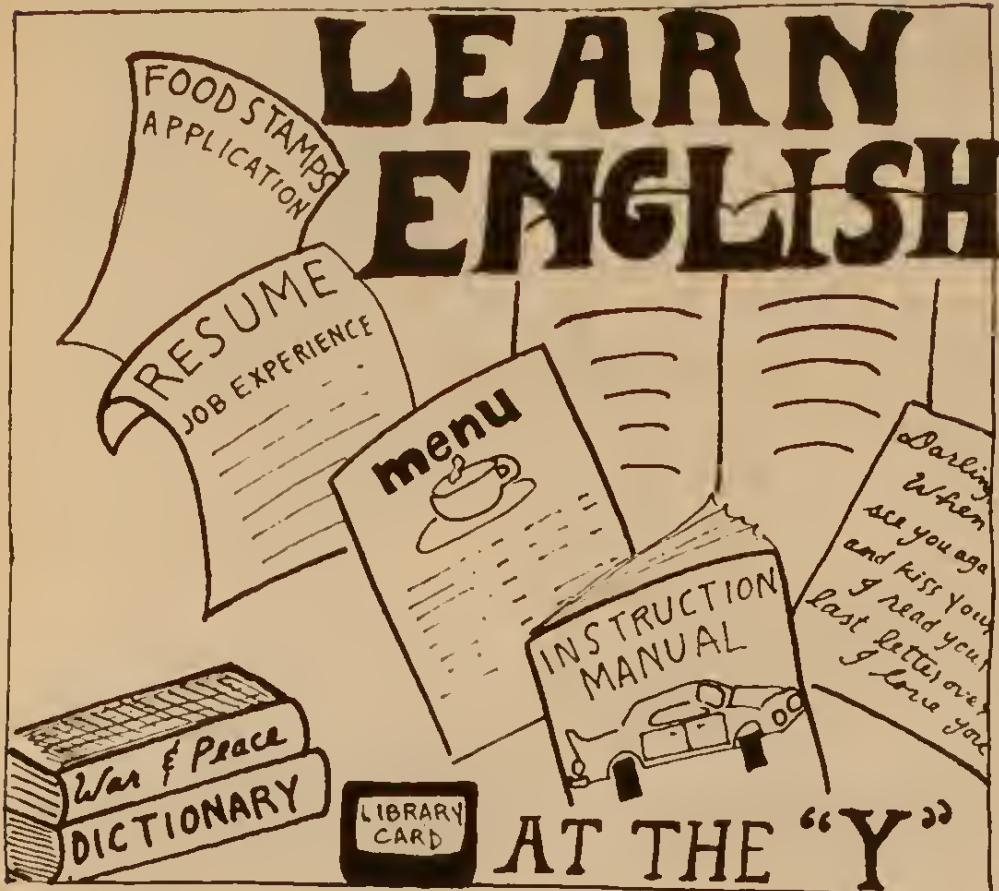


## CONTRAS Cont. from p.1

The Miami branch of this anti-Castro Cuban exile organization is accused, in a civil action, of smuggling cocaine from Columbia to Miami, where it was sold and the proceeds used to ship C-4 explosives and small arms to the Contras in Nicaragua. Mendoza, who was also present at the October 12 rally, boasts that his group has met many times with the Contras in Costa Rica and Honduras.

Victor Miller

Patrick Fahey



The YMCA Literacy School now has openings in their basic literacy session for Spanish speakers. In this session, students learn English within the context of their everyday lives. The school teaches a survival English that centers around and explores problems that come up every day. There is also a cultural orientation class, taught in Spanish, to which the students bring any questions they might have and in which they learn about differences between American culture and Spanish-speaking cultures.

The session meets every day (Monday-Friday) from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Avenue. Classes are free and composed of Spanish-speakers of all ages. The YMCA welcomes any native Spanish speaker, be they immigrant or refugee, who cannot read, write or speak English. For an appointment, call Jaime at 928-4419.



## FARM CRISIS UPDATE

It has been two months since Crossroads Community (the Farm) received notice of eviction from its landlords. The day after the community meeting held November 12, the landlord contacted the director of the Farm to express an interest in negotiations. Her lawyer, Bernard Libanti, has also informed the Farm of this intention; however, the eviction has not been withdrawn.

The Farm needs \$25,000 to negotiate for a new lease at 1499 Potrero. Of this amount, approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 has been raised over the last month from grassroots donations and fundraising events. A 10,000 piece mailing was sent out at the beginning of December asking for donations and support. The response has been good despite the holiday. Letters of support have been pouring into the Farm and into the offices of Supervisor Nancy Walker and Mayor Feinstein. Supervisor Walker has already expressed interest in assisting the Farm. Most letters come from childcare centers and schools, but several other organizations have also written including Galeria de la Raza, S.L.U.G. (the S.F. League of Urban Gardeners), Bay Area Lawyers for the Arts, S.F. Conservation Corp. and the Eureka Theater. Rainbow Grocery is helping out by selling T-shirts and setting out a donation can. Vertical Clearance donated proceeds from a day of haircutting. SOMAR and Mission Grafica donated labor and materials for a benefit poster.

On December 12-14, music and theater benefits were held. MDC, Blue Movie, Non-Fiction and many others provided rock support and a sampling of S.F. theater troupes including Make\*A\*Circus, Traveling Jewish Theater, Fratelli Bologna and S.F. Mime Troupe helped raise spirits and funds. Maximum Rock & Roll (a radio show) held a marathon at the Farm after Christmas: 18 bands from all over the U.S. donated their time and successfully raised thousands of dollars. The bike messengers also donated the proceeds of their party to the Farm.

Negotiations are expected to begin this month, but first the Farm needs to finish raising money. More benefits are being planned and people and businesses are being urged to help out with donations. The community support demonstrated so far has been tremendous and points toward future farming in the Mission.

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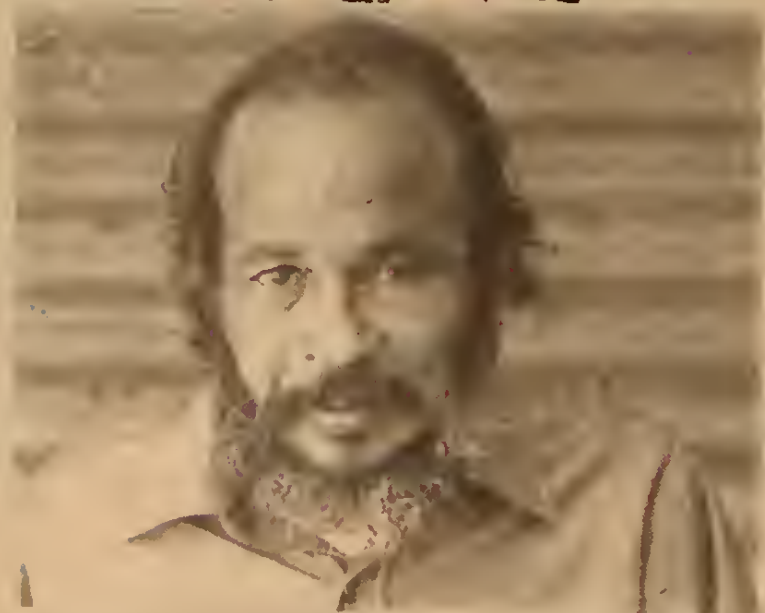
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BOB KAUFMAN, Photo by Michele Boleyn

So this is the street of dreams. Here is where the painters and poets do their brain dance, in and out of the shadows of the Mission. Recently I attended a show of six painters at Southern Exposure Gallery, "ART AFTER EDEN", and after exiting this expressionistic planet of mind the reality of numbers. You must might find yourselves out of your armchairs and into bringing back life and integrity to where you live. The only hope we have comes from each individual's interest in living a life with quality. It makes the whole.

## FORGET TO NOT

Remember, poet, while gallivanting across the sky, Skylarking, shouting, calling names... Walk softly.

Your footprint on rain clouds is visible to naked eyes, Lamps barnacled to your feet refract the mirrored air.

Exotic scents of your hidden vision fly in the face of time.

Remember not to forget the dying colors of yesterday As you inhale tomorrow's hot dream, blown from frozen lips. Remember, you naked agent of every nothing.

Bob Kaufman (from "Solitudes crowded with loneliness", New Directions Publications, copyright 1959)

Eden as it exists were my own feet on the dirty sidewalk of 24th & Mission. Inside that gallery there had been the explosion of hands and brooms, bicycle wheels, black paint, red twigs and the semblance of the good madness that climbs out of this executed street into the minds of the artists here, and onto the materials they have torn from the street and held aloft in an expression of their own hopes (fears). What are they doing here, wrapped in the hopelessly ignorant San Francisco Art World? I ask myself that question each time I look at the eyes of Bob Kaufman and remember the violent reception he received from this city. These artists

might never have to experience shock treatments and beatings and the filthy quarters of the San Francisco Jail, but they do experience the vacuum of critics who would rather critique L.A. and East Coast artists than to explore the artistic terrain of San Francisco. So they survive inside their dreams, as Kaufman did. And too many of those who like to think of themselves as mental supporters of the arts keep their thoughts and their support behind their closed doors. After all, an armchair and a book are much safer than the street. 1986 has been a year of shame for the American people in many ways, but the most of it is each individual's apathy for what they know they should be speaking out about, or participating in. Southern Exposure did not give the six artists the publicity they needed to bring the public's attention to their efforts. I wish they had. Eden has taken a different form these days. It lives inside the frightened eyes of the people and springs from the hands of the heroes who choose action over apathy. I speak of the artists and the poets, the only diplomats of any substance left in this world.

We cannot bring Bob Kaufman back to say we're sorry, but we can buy his books. If there is some justice in death, perhaps those of you who didn't know of him can feel safe now that he is no longer around to insult offensive windows with the heel of his foot. The "Abominist Manifesto" is now just words on paper, or is it? Well my part of participation in this new year is to begin naming names of those who are the true greats of this City and the world village, and these artists/poets are alive and kicking among us. Watch for them and support them by attending their shows and buying their works (directly from them, find their studios and living spaces in other words, and eliminate some of the greedy gains of art dealers and publishers).

There is a great master painter in this city, his name is Gustavo Rivera, among his compatriots to watch for are: Armando Rascon, painter; Carlos Loarca, painter; Rudy Concha, painter; Patricio Toro, painter. There is a great master street poet in this city, his name is Jack Micheline, among his compatriots are: Tony Seymour, poet; Q. R. Hand, poet; Juan Felipe Herrera, poet. I have a much longer list, but these are an excellent taste of the true culture of this city. If you want to find out more about them, contact this paper and I'll send you a list of addresses and phone

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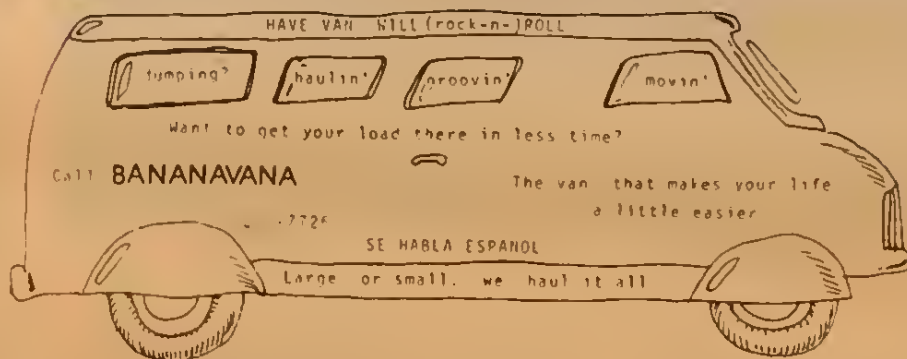
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## Cont. from p.1 HOUSING

Further information about Mission-Capp can be obtained by writing Arriba Juntos at 2017 Mission, SF 94110.

### MISSION HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: THE GARTLAND PIT

The North Mission News has followed developments at the site of the former Gartland Apartments since a fatal holiday season fire in 1975. Speculators like Frank Lembi (who sold the Mission-Capp site to Arriba Juntos) were driven off, and the "Gartland Pit" eventually acquired by MHDC.

"A window opened," said Paul Sussman of MHDC, referring to the unexpected availability of \$1.4 million in Federal funds that became available for the Maria Alicia project last June. Their appearance enabled MHDC to swing a \$1.25 million loan which, with smaller grants, will enable them to reserve eight of the projected twenty 2,3 and 4 bedroom units for "very-low" income families and three more for "low-income". The basement will provide mandatory parking and the ground floor space will be rented commercially. Sussman would like to see a restaurant at the corner of Valencia and 16th, because the higher rent would enable the firm to hold down rents on the non-subsidized apartments.

For application information, write Caritas Management, 2111 Mission Street, but be aware MHDC has a waiting list.

### BDUSING DEVEL. & NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION CO: CASA VALENCIA

Diagonally across the street from the Pit is another building long familiar to readers of the News, the Valencia Inn which was taken over and run, for a time, by the Reverend Floyd Andrews as a Christian bed and breakfast inn.

The project didn't succeed, and HDNPC was able to purchase the completely renovated 60 room facility for two million dollars, of which a third was met with CDBG funds and the remainder through a mortgage from Colonial Savings.

According to Al Borvice of HDNPC, the renamed "Casa Valencia" will provide rooms for single working people, single parents, the elderly and disabled and refugees from Central America. Half the units will be maintained at "very low" rates and another 20% "low". With a community kitchen and dining room, wall to wall carpeting, 24-hour security and message service, two day rooms with color televisions and an in-house laundromat, Casa Valencia is a distinct improvement over most North Mission res hotels and "not the El Capitan," Borvice advises. Still, as a hotel, there is a higher turnover and, consequently, a greater chance of finding a vacancy than at a non-profit apartment facility. Applicants should go directly to 504 Valencia.

### NDN-PROFIT HOUSING: THE FUTURE

Whether or not Mission non-profits will continue to be able to acquire and develop properties to keep pace with the process of gentrification forcing many out of their existing homes is a point of contention.

"The good news is that President Reagan does not want to kill the CDBG program," contends Rene Cazenave, a consultant to several local and national housing groups. "The bad is that the administration wants to reduce it by \$175 million each year until 1991. And Congress, in light of the deficit, may still decide to eliminate it entirely."



DUNBAR APTS 16th and Hoff(MHDC)

The non-profits, too, blame Washington. HDNPC would like to acquire the deteriorating Carmelita Apartments two blocks from Casa Valencia which, according to Borvice, now account for a substantial measure of neighborhood crime and blight. "For the cost of one cruise missile, you can build a hundred hospitals."

"The only block grants available are for relocations in the case of fires or other emergencies," says Wes Willoughby of the Redevelopment Agency. "And an increasingly conservative Congress has gone along with the Reagan administration in cutting funds for low-income housing."

Redevelopment, according to Cazenave and Willoughby, is filling some of the CDBG gap by selling off some of its land and by tax increment financing such as bond issues that may be impossible under the new tax laws. Bill Reed, housing aide to Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, finds the new laws confusing at best, but is hopeful that Democratic gains in the Senate will negate some of their more harmful aspects.

In response to CDBG cuts and other developments, the City authorized a top-secret report by Edgar Dunn Associates exploring whether to leave Redevelopment and MOHED intact with their shrinking budgets, or to combine their functions.

"The cutting of block grants was the motivating force behind the study," said consultant Jim Edgar, "but those tax laws that affect bond financing also came in." He believes that, for the present, the only viable source of replacement monies is the City's general fund.

Rossen of MOHED dismisses merger possibilities as "rumor" but Cazenave disagrees. "It's a question of who eats who." He contends that, while the Redevelopment budget has dropped by half over the last five years and non-profits are also making painful cutbacks, MOHED has expanded its staff. Nonetheless, he doubts that any combined agency will be MOHED dominated. "The minnow doesn't swallow the whale."

Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff stated "our present inclination is to keep them separate", but allowed as how the Mayor was keeping her options open. In the event of a merger, he

doubts the City's general fund will make up the losses suffered in CDBG cutbacks, or that substantial funds would be transferred from Redevelopment to MOHED. "There's not a great deal of (Redevelopment) land left to sell."

One indication of the way the wind is blowing would be if a replacement is named for Redevelopment director Wilbur Hamilton, who has expressed a wish to retire. "At the moment," Willoughby believes, "the matter is in the lap of the Mayor." Like Bill Reed, he is hopeful that the new tax laws will prove not only confusing but so severe that the Congress will take prompt action to lessen their impact.



CASA VALENCIA 16th and Bartlett (HDNPC)

One way of doing so, suggests Cazenave, was proposed by retiring Maryland Congressman Perrin Mitchell who introduced legislation reforming the CDBG program, which was frequently abused and, thus, an easy target for the Reaganites. Outside the Bay Area, as many as half the grants were frittered away on market-rate or speculative housing, and Mitchell proposed making all CDBG grants low-income, thus increasing the share accruing to responsible projects like the three named above and restoring the program's credibility.

If the funding decline can be reversed, it will be good news not only to existing non-profits but to newcomers, like the veterans' advocacy Swords to Plowshares, which is trying to acquire a Mission hotel as a transitional facility for unemployed Vietnam-era veterans now being shuttled back and forth between the hotel hotlines and the street.

"They've never given a dime for veterans," contends Michael Blecker, who has been turned down repeatedly by funding programs. "We could fill a building easily with people who come in looking for help."

It is the common understanding that non-profit housing, like welfare, food stamps and the soup kitchen, is a band-aid slapped across the bleeding sores of an unfair, inept economy... a necessary evil that will be with us for a long, long time. So, until the day the City and the nation regain their perspectives, it is right that the North Mission celebrate these small, but necessary gains.

But it is also right to identify and to name the causes of homeless as exhibited, for example, in the Chronicle's "Season for Sharing" series... deindustrialization, profit-based health care... and unaffordable housing caused by speculation (Lembi, for example, nearly doubled his take on the empty site of the Mirian in only three years). So, in the instance of Casa Valencia and the Mirian and Gartland Apartments, we are merely reclaiming what belonged to the North Mission in the first place.

Brian Doohan

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## HOW N. MISSION VOTED

The North Mission, by and large, took a more liberal position than the rest of San Francisco in the 1986 election and the City, in turn, voted more liberally than California.

The Mission, as a whole, gave 78% of the vote to Tom Bradley (who lost, statewide) and 86% to Alan Cranston (who narrowly won). They received 60 and 75% respectively in the City. We also supported Justices Rose Hird and Cruz Reynoso by a margin of approximately 4-1 while San Francisco voters gave them 2-1 margins in an overall negative vote. The vote against Propositions 63 and 64 and for Prop. 65 also was higher in the Mission than in the City or the State.

We also turned "thumbs down" on Quentin Kopp's try for State Senate by a 60/40 margin (he won the city and the race by a narrow margin) and gave Rosario Anaya nearly twice the votes of any other challenger in the School Board race. 63% of the voters approved the accountable planning initiative Prop. M which carried 51% citywide.

The diversity of the North Mission was apparent in the race for Board of Supervisors, reflecting the economic and ethnic differences of the precincts east or west of Mission. The order of finish of the top eight candidates was:

Region:	Normn	Neldr	Mahe	Hongs	Aliot	Walkr	Ward	Tang
City	7	5	2	3	8	1	4	6
Mission	3	7	4	2	8	1	5	6
N. Mis.	3	7	4	2	8	1	5	6
(East)	5	6	3	2	8	1	4	7
(West)	3	7	5	2	8	1	4	6
Haight	4	7	3	2	8	1	5	6
I. Merced	8	1	3	6	7	2	4	5
Bayview	8	4	5	3	7	2	1	6
Piedmont	8	5	2	3	6	1	7	4

Each candidate had their own special areas of strength or weakness. Walker won 19 of 20 North Mission precincts, losing only to Hongisto in the area just off Market between Guerrero and Dolores. Doris Ward ran strongest in the area off Market beneath the freeway and Julie Tang in the region bounded by Mission, Guerrero, 17th and 19th.

Precinct 1212 off Dolores Park was the most liberal in the North Mission. Pat Norman finished second here and voters approved City Proposition M by a three to one margin and routed the anti-gay Prop. 64 by a spread of 315 to 12.

But just a block away, diagonally, Precincts 1217 and 1218 were the most conservative, giving good scores to Maher, Nelder and Alioto and splitting almost evenly on Prop. M while giving the most support to LaRoche and the English-Only initiative.

"There are a lot of criminals here," said one resident of the neighborhood near Mission and 16th which contains a number of cheap hotels and the offices of the North Mission Association. "Most criminals who vote are conservatives."

The North Mission trailed most of the city in turnout, with only 45.3% of the eastern precincts and 53.8% of the west going to the polls, as compared to 61.3% citywide.



## IS YOUR APARTMENT COLD?

### THE LAW SAYS:

Chapter XII, Part II (Housing Code) of San Francisco's Municipal Code states that it is the landlord's responsibility to provide and maintain the minimum heat requirement in residential hotels and apartments. If the landlord neglects this responsibility, the tenant should notify the Department of Public Works Building Inspectors about the heat problems.

### YOUR LANDLORD MUST PROVIDE:

According to Section 707A, heat capable of maintaining a room temperature of 68 degrees F at a point three feet above the floor, based on an exterior temperature of thirty five degrees F, shall be made available to each occupied habitable room for thirteen hours between the hours of 5:00 AM and 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM and 10:00 PM.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

If you have difficulty in getting the required minimum heat in your building, you should:

- 1) Notify your landlord in writing. If that fails:
- 2) Notify the Department of Public Works Building Inspectors (558-4505) at 450 McAllister, Room 302, S.F. 94102.

### PENALTIES AGAINST LANDLORDS WHO BREAK THE LAW:

Section 306: The person, owner or agent who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with the Housing Code, or any order of the Superintendent or the Director of Public Works, made pursuant to this Code, shall be guilty of an infraction or a misdemeanor. If charged as an infraction, the penalty upon conviction shall be not less than \$100 or more than \$500.

If charged as a misdemeanor, the penalty upon conviction shall be a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000 or imprisonment in the county jail, not exceeding six months, or both fine and imprisonment.

- Courtesy San Francisco Tenants' Union

## Small Press Traffic

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# MISSION COMMUNITY CULTURE

648-6865

by Michael Page

## WHAT'S ON THE UNDERSIDE?

### VOICE FROM THE STREET

[A Friday night at the beginning of winter  
at the beginning of 1987]

Once again I find myself combing the Mission on a Friday night looking for something to do. Am I trapped here? It's been raining for some days now and I was beginning to feel stir crazy in my one room Mission apartment. All the hype from the holiday season built me up for my annual bout of loneliness not to mention a cold that coincided so that I wished it would hurry up and get over with. 'What is it that holds me to these streets', I thought. 'Isn't it time to move to New Mexico?'

As I slink down Mission street toward 16th street, hoping to make a score or a contact, I take in bits and pieces of the charla of the barrio. The shady night reveals its brutal desperate underside. My white-boy self is challenged here, on these streets. I feel an outsider and must make an effort to join in. I am always careful not to look like a cop or look too long or too hard at the private affairs of the underside of the street. At the same time I see evidence of my niche. My compadres and comadres are here. We consolidate here, marching, dancing, cruising. Only now, at this late hour, I see my compadres the dope dealers, the maricas, the wandering women, lost types, hungry opportunists; escapees from a hundred different places. Mission street can feel like a stopover on the way to the jails. The same culture thrives here. I recognize the tattooed jargon, the suspicion, and the familiarity like the world behind bars. Undercover cops are about, you can tell by their walk and by their shoes. They too must be attracted to the drama of la calle Mission.

The Victoria Theatre is dark. The theatre of the underside takes over the corner of Mission and 16th. The black sax player and his blusey buddy packed up their gig at sundown. There are no sweet evangelists, just lost souls. When the theatre is open and happening the street becomes like Paris or New York. I've seen some of the best theatre, music and dance of my life at this place. Groups from all over the world as well as the finest of the local performers: Jordeircus, Eseambray, Mime Troupe, Whoopie Goldberg, Brecht, Culture Clash, Canto Popular, Dimensions Dance Theatre...



"Hey everybody, let's do a play. Let's get street people involved. We can show what's really going on, the underbelly of urban life. It'll be political. We can do a scene in the board of supervisors ordering that they dig out some cave dwellers living under the Bart tunnel." 'There's a whole civilization down there.' The idea takes off in my head. I see our little troupe on the stage of the Victoria.

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the doors open, the remodeling completed and no admission price. But where would we rehearse? How could we afford it anyway? Who besides me has interest in something so off the wall and time consuming? There are so many grants I should be writing. I'm destined to be an administrator or a teacher or another grassroots fundraiser.

"Spare change? Just a coffee not a coffeehouse."

Contraband had the right idea doing their performances in the huge empty pit on Valencia and 16th. (See November issue.) I look at the pit now all dark and trashed out. How long would it take to fill up all the way with empties? Memories from the night I saw Contraband do their occupation/performance piece in the Gartland pit are like images from a dream. Their piece embraced the underbelly of our souls and of their work as dancers and performers. The dusthows of light and shadow at times silouetted a dance rite of chaotic brutality, of radical intensity. They came close to a movement of the schizophrenic on an acid trip. These white people were honoring the primordial past. It helped me leave the patriarchial present. Sometimes out of the works of the most poor and unrecognized cultural group has risen an expression bordering on the religious experience. Maybe that is what keeps me here, the Thanksgivings with the Indians, a Korean rock band, hardcore punk rituals and AfroCuban rumbas.

'Hey, isn't Conjunto Cespedes playing at the Firehouse 7 for only four dollars? I guess I'll go in and get warm.'

I talked with Guillermo Cespedes. He plays guitar, sings and forms a lively part of a trio with his clan members. They are hacked up by some young percussive musicians who like to party. Cespedes says it's getting tougher for his band of about a dozen members to get good gigs in the city. Clubs aren't interested in billing the bands. Cesar's on Mission St. is the only consistently Latin club. Clubs are trying to appeal to rock and roll audiences, the young crowd and club audience. Conjunto Cespedes has played its share of benefits for political groups and have achieved a mixed, aware following. People are finding that to see a good Latin band to dance to, you end up paying \$12 \$20 ticket.

Outside the bar after some dancing and a little anonymous flirting my head fills with the sound of my own voice. "Maybe I should work with the Farm and put on a festival of Latin and African music." I thought of the incredible shows I've seen over the past years. "Another grant I could write."



My hunger resurfaces. I see a telephone pole jammed with flyers. Who puts up all these flyers? I read. "parties to aid the earthquakes...of desaparecidos...break the chains of racism and apartheid...an invitation to a forum on gays in Nicaragua...lesbians in the military...healing our addictions..."

We need to get together. We need to feel we're part of something. We go on creating our culture drawing the threads together. Our's is an expression of our lives in this place and rises out of our resistance, plastering the walls with it, spray painting it on the dumpster, yelling it from the community garden. The Mission streets feel like an avenue to somewhere. The boundaries of this Latin ghetto encompass a place where I am not alone to wander or get swallowed up by the beast. (I'm now outside McDonalds on Mission.) I want to see it take hold of the people. There are places like the Woman's Building on 18th and Valencia, numerous print shops, galleries, bookstores that have been for me a tap root and support network to make me feel secure, well adjusted and happy in this place. I pass up a Big Mac and the opportunity to do some guerilla theatre in the restaurant.

"Spare change for a theatre ticket or world peace or for my mother's liberation?"

I will make my time more active here and more worthwhile in the coming year but I will not give up tripping around the Mission at night. I will continue to play chameleon, agitator and reporter. But now I'm getting a little chilly and feel as I could sleep. I'll go on home to my drafty flat. You bet I'll be dreaming of some Carribean zone of control far away from this place.

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4 urban reform	1 for 16mm & super 8	6 santa claus	7 the reggae calendar presents	1 genetic sound	2 1st annual 1980 dance party	3 the atomic cat's
11 d.j. kevin c	5 film showcase 9:30 free	13 j'ai noie	14 CRUCIAL DANCE NIGHT	8 benefit	9 big city	10 10
18 industrial progressive dance music	12 dancing d.j. keth	20 bwana devils	21 with boy areas TOP radio d.j.'s	15 wilda bride	16 the looters	17 you love to dance
		27 the coincidence	28	22 no glonades	23 ol' evening	24
				29 the convictions	30 100 million	31

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## NEIGHBORS by LYNN JOHNSON

There's a new calendar in my pocket. It's a new year. Good time for a certain exercise I know. Put yourself in an undisturbed space and get comfortable. Breathe. Relax. Picture last year in your mind. Remember one month at time beginning with January. Take your time. In each month notice what you liked in your life and how it got there. Then notice what you didn't like and picture what you would have liked instead. When you're quite satisfied with your images of 1986, look forward into 1987. Picture exactly what you'd like in 1987: what you'd like to be doing, who you'd like to be spending time with, what activities or accomplishments you'd like to experience. Picture 1987 exactly as you'd like it to be, picture it in such detail that you can imagine the sounds and smells around you. Ask yourself what you can do to make this vision reality. Listen.

On Thursday, January 22nd, I'll be leading a "How-To" workshop on visualization and Applied Meditation at VIBRANT HEALTH, the big vitamin store at Market and Noe. The workshop is absolutely free, it's from 7 to 9 PM, and I'd be happy to see some of my neighbors there. I'll be teaching and demonstrating some simple ways to find your own answers to problems and take control of your life.

During all the rush of the holidays I didn't make it to many events in the neighborhood, but I did do most of my shopping in the neighborhood. I discovered a great, reasonably priced champagne among the wide and clearly defined selection at STAGI'S liquor store on 16th between Valencia and Mission. Across the street at ZARRY'S I found several presents for friends of mine. The YANGTZE MARKET on Mission near 16th and the MISSION MALL provided treats for several holiday dinners and parties and, of course, RAINBOW STORES at 15th and Mission provided goodies, presents and treats for me and many of my friends. Wonderful, low-priced breakfasts at AUNT MARY'S on 16th between Valencia and Guerrero fortified my holidays. One evening before Christmas, a friend suggested we have dinner at TAZUMAL on 20th between Valencia and Mission, and we discovered one of the best and cheapest versions of goat birria with homemade corn tortillas that I've experienced.



MAGI, Photo by Luis Delgado

I did get to see SOON 3's production, "Magi", at Theater Artaud in December. The music by Bob Davis with the Kronos Quartet was great and the production was visually stimulating. I found it a bit tedious at points when I didn't understand what was going on, but it certainly

## FACES OF THE HOMELESS



On January 9th at 7PM, the Eye Gallery (758 Valencia) will host a reception for photographers Jerry Berndt and David Wells in conjunction with their joint exhibition at the gallery.

"These photographs of the homeless," Eye declares, "by Jerry Berndt (Missing Persons) and David Wells (Scenes of Survival) personalize a social problem by demanding that we look directly into the faces and lives of the homeless. We cannot turn away. Because these images are not sentimental or ideological, they faithfully depict the complexities and contradictions of the homeless."

The photographs will be exhibited Jan. 8th to Feb. 15. The Eye Gallery is open 1-5 PM, Thursdays through Sundays.



provided a lot for me to think and talk about afterwards. January 7th - 11th at **THEATER ARTAUD**, the Allen family performs "Do You Know What Your Children Are Tonight?", described as a wacky, wonderful and inspired play by the Allens. January 15th - 25th, Mabou Mines presents their award winning production, "Cold Harbor", featuring music by Phillip Glass and starring William Raymond as Ulysses S. Grant. This one sounds especially good: Enclosed in a shattered glass display case, Grant confronts his destiny and challenges his audience to a unique examination of the themes of war and national purpose. So maybe you'd like to purchase a membership in Theater Artaud. For information you can call 621-7641.

**INTERSECTION FOR THE ARTS** has some exciting productions scheduled for January also. In "Nomad Mad", Ruth Zaporan and Rinde Eckert use language, movement and music in an evocative setting to convey both formal beauty and idiomatic humor. This performance will run Wednesdays through Sundays, January 7th-24th. January 29th - February 7th, **INTERSECTION** presents a work-in-progress performance on the theme of "Jewish Arguments" by A Traveling Jewish Theatre and New York director Joseph Chaikin. **INTERSECTION FOR THE ARTS** is at 766 Valencia and the number at the box office is 626-3311.

Don't forget the ongoing, ever-changing offerings of wonderful films at the **ROXIE THEATER** on 16th Street and the **YORK THEATER** on 24th Street. Both theaters continually offer great cinema at very low prices.

**OPERATION CONCERN** is sponsoring Physique 87 -- Springboard to Gay Games III and, on January 25th, they will hold their first monthly Training Workshop at City Athletic Club at 2500 Market Street with very specific instructions on posing. This program is open to all body-builders including beginners and octogenarians. For more information call George Birimisa at 431-6254.

Have you noticed **DEADBEAT**? It's one of those free magazines you see in stacks next to the North Mission News. Pick one up next time you see it: it's got good stuff in it.

I had a good time at the **WOMEN'S CRAFTS FAIR** at the **WOMEN'S BUILDING** last year in December. It was great because I ran into a lot of people I haven't seen in a long time and caught up with the activities in their lives. The crafts on sale didn't seem as exciting or unusual as the year before, but it was a good time. Thanks to the **WOMEN'S BUILDING** for this great annual event.

I wish you all a healthy, prosperous and loving New Year. Take control of yourself!



Highlights of "Dance Action at the Zephyr" include award-winning dancer-choreographer Shanda Sawyer performing with Jose Corrales and David Vincent. The 10-concert series opens January 21 at the Zephyr I.

TV's Emmy Award-winning dancer-choreographer Shanda Sawyer, pictured here with partner Jose Corrales (left) and David Vincent in choreography by Tance Johnson, will also dance her own work in "Dance Action at the Zephyr", Jan. 21 - Feb. 1 at Zephyr I, 25 Van Ness in San Francisco. Tance

Johnson's 10-concert series, Dance Action's first collaboration with Hatley Martin Gallery, will also feature work by sculptor Janet Fryer and artist-choreographer Sha Sha Higby. Also participating in the three rotating programs, titled "Action/Dance Action", "Living Sculpture" and "Latin Legacy" are choreographers Clover Mathis, Liz Fuentes Rosner, Henry Berg, Cecelia-Marie Bowman, Nemesio Paredes and California Disco Hustle Champions Ava and Andre. Horacio Cifuentes appears as guest artist. Tickets are available at STBS and BASS. Telephone reservations may be made by calling (415) 861-6895. Photo by Marty Sohl.



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The China Shop  
by  
The Bull

Surviving in 1987, the latter part of the 20th century, provides the putative theme for this first column of the new year. Considering that your correspondent, if I may inflate my status so, feels barely able to survive himself, this will be some trick.

First, the best way to survive the outpouring of columns, talk shows, articles that purport to tell you the best, the biggest, the stupidest, the top whatever of 1986, is to ignore all electronic media for the next two weeks and to avoid reading all newspaper and magazine articles that have headlines that begin like, "The Best 100 Chicken Dinners of 1986".

A restriction imposed on this space by the dictatorial editor of this rag is that this "survival guide" (the theme itself imposed from above), be restricted to surviving in the Mission, a subject this refugee from comfortable suburban living feels inadequate to cover without slipping into middle class banalities of dubious worth to the readers of this paper. But like the Campbell Soup Company, whose drive to preserve its space on store shelves has caused it

to invent 112 different kinds of chicken soup, I will tackle this subject out of the fear that if I don't put something in this space I will lose it.

Or as the song says, "It's alright ma, I'm only bleeding."

To all of you apartment dwellers out there, remember that the only thing separating you from many of the homeless persons on the street is one month's rent. The concatenation of a few of life's mishaps, loss of a job, an illness, can cause you to end up on the streets. So, taking cognizance of the theory of "what goes around, comes around" your spiritual survival will be enhanced if you don't treat the homeless on our streets as unpersons: If you haven't got any spare cash to give them, at least look at them and acknowledge their existence.

It is a known fact that unrestrained laughter can cause shortness of breath, abdominal cramping and can even lead to death. So, as the hilarious bumbblings of Gippergate ooze into public view try to restrain yourself.

Enhance your survival possibilities by continuing to be aware that you need to look out for your neighbors. If you see someone getting hassled, mugged or otherwise beset, don't just sit there, call the cops; maybe someone will call them for you.

Owners of dogs can add to their life span by not letting me see them allow their dogs to shit on the sidewalk. I've just about had it with these cretins. Beware.

Speaking of sidewalks, I know parking is tight around here but the time for active measures against sidewalk parkers has come; our survival is threatened by being forced into the traffic because some jerk (who probably lets his dog crap on the sidewalk) blocks the way with their car. Maybe a few ice pick holes in the sidewalks will get their attention. Now mind you, I'm not encouraging random acts of thoughtless violence... (caveat required by law).

Keep your blood pressure under control, anticipate articles in the local papers that begin, "Mayor Feinstein, joined by Tom Hsieh and Jim Gonzalez..." Take comfort in the fact that the reign of Princess Di is winding down and, if we can get district elections of Supervisors on the ballot in 1987, we may be able to get these two toadies off the Board before they can do any harm.

By now you are probably running out of patience with this bullshit so I'll stop, secure in the knowledge that I have preserved this space for something I feel more competent to write about. Also, my apartment is so cold that my hands are turning white typing this and, in order to prevent frostbite, I must bring this to a merciful end.

# This bottle could save your life.

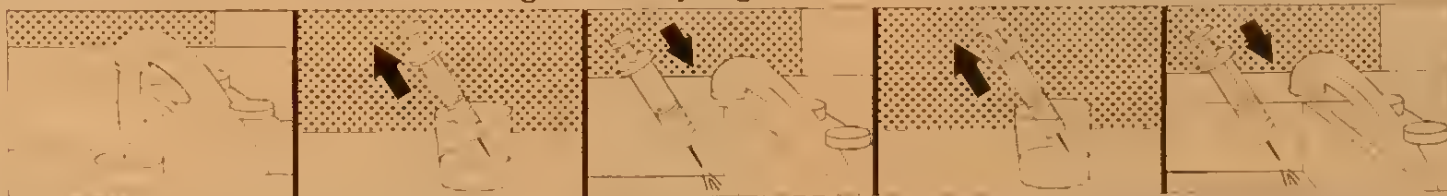


Bleach kills the AIDS virus that gets in used needles. Cleaning needles with bleach will help

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For more facts about AIDS  
and cleaning needles:



Call  
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# TENANT TIMES

Vol 8 No 1

Newsletter of the San Francisco Tenants Union

JAN. 1987

## SACRAMENTO SCOOP

On Jan 1, 1987, most legislation passed by the California State Legislature last year becomes law. So duck already!

During 1986 many housing and tenant related bills were introduced, many died timely or untimely deaths, many were vetoed, and a number are now messing with our lives. What follows is a tour of the legislative graveyard and nursery.

### COSTA: DOUBLE ARREST

In the year's most significant legislative show, State Senate President Pro-Tem David Roberti, danced a parlimentary tarantella on the grave of the vampire-like Costa rent control preemption bill--AB 483.

Thanks to Californi's "Tenant Hero For Life", Dave Roberti, we won an overwhelming victory by arresting the real estate interests ploy to avoid public hearings and rush Jim Costa's (Democrat(D)-Fresno) anti-rent control bill through on the State Senate floor, shortly after it sailed through Speaker Willie Brown's (D-San Francisco) State Assembly.

[In an unrelated Sacramento event, Assemblyman Costa was arrested for soliciting a decoy prostitute on the streets while in the company of another prostitute.]

### SECURITY DEPOSITS

The definition of "security" has been expanded to cover the use of the deposit for return, repair or replacment of the landlord's property or appliances, e.g. replacing mailbox key, or fixing a busted garage door opener, beyond "ordinary wear and tear". This is apparently to stop landlords from evading the security deposit limits by labeling as an extra "fee" what was really a deposit.

The law now specifies that the landlord must furnish by means of mail or personal delivery any list of itemized deductions from the security



Is this tenant A) calling his landlord about a repair problem, B) calling his legislator about pending renter legislation in Sacramento, or C) talking to a counselor at the SFTU on the members-only Hotline? Please turn to the back page for the answer to this puzzle.

deposit with two weeks after the tenant moves out. This delivery also applies to the notice the landlord must give to the tenant--upon a sale of the building--the name, address and phone number of the new owner. Here the old owner must tell what is happening with the renter's deposit: either the new boss is getting it (typically) or the tenant is getting it back, and/or deductions (list required) are being sucked out. All of above clarifications are courtesy of AB 3703 (Johnston).

Meanwhile, a 1985 change in the deposit law is kicking in, effective for all tenants leaving after 1/1/87. Now, "bad faith" retention of the security deposit beyond two weeks, may be further penalized by a 2% interest penalty per month on the amount unlawfully kept.

This means that if your former landlord keeps the some or all of your deposit beyond 2 weeks or makes unlawful deductions, you should--after writing the owner a letter demanding your rightful cash and not getting it--sue the guy in small claims court for the following:

\*The unrefunded deposit

\*\$200 punitive damages

\*Court costs (\$6 filing fee)

\*2% interest per month interest on the unrefunded deposit prorated for time held over two weeks

\*5% interest per year on the total deposit held during your tenancy--assuming you stayed longer than a year and the landlord failed to pay this on a yearly or more frequent basis.

Note: it's up to the judge to award you the \$200, the filing fee, and the new 2% monthly interest penalty, or not. But under SF City law, you are always entitled to the 5% yearly interest on the security deposit; however, this interest only goes back to Sept. 1, 1983.

For more information consult your Tenant Union Handbook, available to all members. If not a member join immediately.



# Organizing

The Tenants Union has recommit-  
ted its resources to satisfy the  
perpetual need to organize renters  
within San Francisco apartment  
buildings and residential hotels.  
Since its birth in 1977, the SFTU  
has been called in to work with  
over 300 buildings by tenants  
suffering from a wide spectrum of  
maladies including negligent or  
malicious management policies,  
arbitrary rent increases, mass  
evictions and the less tangible,  
but very real, fear of the unknown  
when a building is bought by new  
landlords. Over the past two  
years, Tenants Union organizing  
campaigns have been sporadic. How-  
ever, as a result of increased  
funding and a realization that ef-  
fective organizing by tenants is  
essential if abuses are to be suc-  
cessfully challenged, the SFTU has  
recently hired two halftime organi-  
zers and has reconvened its Organi-  
zing Committee.

The two paid organizers each  
have different tasks. Jim Pave, a  
nine year veteran of tenant acti-  
vism, is SFTU's senior organizer,  
responsible for development of the  
overall program, coordination of  
the volunteer Organizing Committee,  
screening of building contacts and  
the development of an Organizer's  
Manual and the formation of regular  
workshops where tenants may come to  
discuss strategies of organizing  
their neighbors. Linda Frazho is  
new to the tenant movement but with  
many years of activism behind her.  
She is in charge of the Residential  
Hotel Organizing Project, focusing  
in the Mission and South of Market.  
She will be employing old and new  
strategies in the difficult task of  
organizing tenants in hotels where  
management reaction sometimes  
turns into violent confrontation.

Because the demand still exceeds  
our ability to respond, we must  
limit our organizing assistance to  
those buildings which meet the

following criteria until additional  
organizers are trained.

- \*\* Buildings must have ten or more  
units and the problems must be  
mutually shared by the majority of  
residents.
- \*\* At least 1/3 of all occupied  
units must be represented at a  
first meeting, 1/2 by the second,  
and 2/3 by the third meeting.
- \*\* It is required that tenants who  
organize with SFTU assistance join  
the Union. Organized tenants asso-  
ciation dues are offered at a \$5.00  
reduction off our regular dues  
schedule.

It has been a long-established  
rule that a group of people working  
cohesively with a common purpose  
are in a much stronger bargaining  
position than is the isolated indi-  
vidual. Although it is never easy  
to bring together the diversity  
represented in a San Francisco  
apartment building or hotel, there  
is ALWAYS a common thread which can  
be used to weave a strong cloth.  
The SFTU is prepared to assist any  
group of tenants to weave a fabric  
of their choosing. If you want to  
discuss organizing YOUR building,  
or if you are interested in joining  
the Organizing Committee, please  
call Jim or Linda at 282-5525 or  
come into our office at 558 Capp.

## RECENTLY ORGANIZED TENANTS UNIONS

**ENTELLA HOTEL:** Tenants recently  
won a rent reduction for removal of  
the common lobby. They are now be-  
ginning to work on resolving an on-  
going noise problem from Wolfgang's  
nightclub directly below the hotel.

**SOMA HOTEL:** 38 42 Washburn/32 u-  
nits in two buildings. Owner  
Richard Fraige has reacquired the  
hotel but has refused to make known  
his plans for the Soma. Tenants  
are now in process of fighting  
evictions and the rumored imposi-  
tion of a soup kitchen in the ho-  
tel's common kitchen and lounge.

**HOTEL GRAND SOUTHERN:** 1941 Mission  
/60 units. Possibly the worst run  
hotel in the neighborhood; owner  
Ruben Salem has consistently ig-  
nored tenant pleas for heat, hot  
water, security, pest control, etc.  
Neighborhood support for tenants is  
being organized by the SFTU.

**THOMAS PAINE SQUARE:** 96 units at  
Turk & Buchanan/Golden Gate &  
Laguna. This subsidized housing is  
managed by the John Stewart Company  
of Sausalito. Tenants have formed  
an association to develop and main-  
tain a workable relationship with  
on-site management.

**2280 MISSION:** An eight unit apart-  
ment building allowed to physically  
run down by owner Shum Choi Sang.  
Tenants have organized a rent  
strike to protest the numerous code  
violations.

**198 CARL:** 28 unit residential  
hotel on the corner of Stanyan.  
New owner, Gary Raugh, has been  
clearing out the hotel since Novem-  
ber in order to do major re-hab.  
Nine units remain occupied. These  
tenants have banded together to  
obtain higher relocation benefits  
and to preserve the longtime affor-  
dability of the hotel. Tenants  
plan to protest the landlord's  
extensive renovation scheme.

**FIFTH AVENUE DEMOLITION:** The new  
owners of four contiguous homes on  
the 200 block of Fifth Avenue want  
to tear them down and build condos.  
Tenants are challenging the owners.



## RENT WITHHOLDING

Thanks to AB3920 (Roos D-L.A.)  
we now have more detailed  
procedures for rent  
withholding when the landlord  
won't make seriously needed  
repairs.

If the landlord files an  
eviction suit for non-payment  
and the tenant claims lousy  
conditions are the reason for  
stiffing the fellow this is  
the legal choreography for the  
tenant to win: the judge must  
take two steps: #1 Determine  
the landlord has committed a  
"substantial breach" of the  
solemn legal obligation and  
built-in guarantee ("warranty  
of habitability") that the  
place is fit to live in and;  
#2 Determine that the tenant--  
within 5 days--has deposited  
with the court a reduced back  
rent for the sleazy unit,  
proving, we suppose, that the  
renter is not a mere deadbeat.

If the judge fails to  
determine either #1 or #2,  
then the tenant loses and can  
be evicted and stuck with the  
court costs and owner's legal  
fees.

"Substantial breach" is  
defined in this bill as  
meaning "the failure of the  
landlord to comply with  
applicable building and  
housing code standards which  
materially affect health and  
safety."

[Other remedies for  
substandard conditions include  
"repair & deduct"; suing the  
landlord for damages, and city  
code enforcement. Details: see  
Tenant Union Handbook.]

## BANE OF LODGERS

This is the worse renter bill  
of 1986: the Bane "Lodger  
Bill", AB 3689. This cutie  
would allow a landlord to  
eject a "lodger" or roomer at  
the end of a thirty day notice  
without going to court--as is  
now required for all other  
tenant evictions. Get this:  
the landlord could call the  
police to aid in a citizen's  
arrest of the the lodger-  
tenant who would be guilty of  
an "infraction"! This would  
clearly seem to violate the  
constitutional rights of the  
lodger to "due process" and  
open the landlord to wrongful  
arrest suits.

It is very important to  
understand what the Bane  
Lodger bill covers and what it  
doesn't: It only applies to  
single lodgers living in a  
room inside an owner occupied  
dwelling. It does not apply to  
rooming houses with multiple  
lodgers, or to Residential  
Hotels, or to roommate  
situations where the "master  
tenant" isn't an owner, or to  
tenants living in separate  
"in-law" apartments, or to  
rented homes where the owner  
does not "personally" live  
there.

## OTHER LEGISLATION

Sen. Nick Petris (D-Oakland)  
was active in the housing wars  
last year: his farm labor camp  
inspection bill AB 1937 was  
signed, two bills were vetoed  
(see below), and his SB 2580  
was signed--this relates to  
landlord compliance with local  
rent control and seems to be a  
product of his running gun  
battle with the Berkeley Rent  
Board and applies more to  
vacancy control cities (not  
SF), as would have perhaps his  
SB 2025, which died in  
Committee.

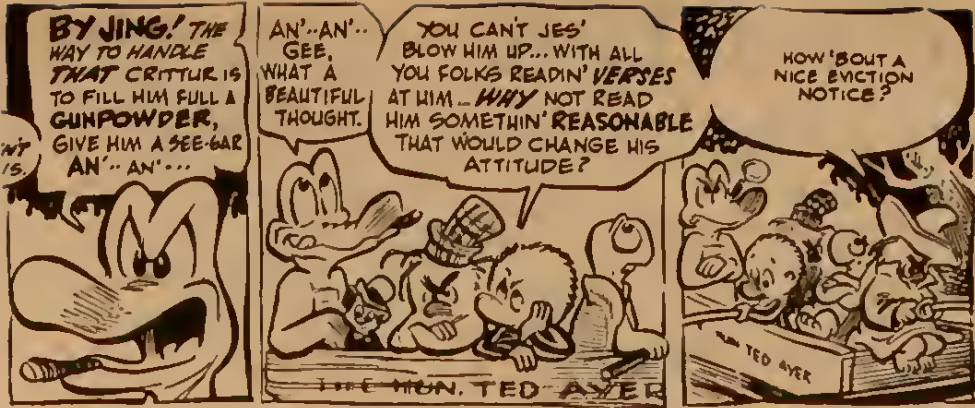


VIKING HOTEL: 1876 Market at Laguna/30 units. Tenants are now organizing to prepare for the inevitable welcome by a new owner.

ORANGELAND: Another ongoing struggle pitting elderly Chinese tenants against a developer who wants them out. Tenants had won a reprieve earlier in 1985 when they stopped the owner (Gcoro Development) from demolishing the 70-unit complex. But now the Abatement Appeals Board has ruled that the building is below code (technically, it has too few toilets) clearing the way for the owner to close 34 units at 1047 Stockton. A rehearing is scheduled for 1:30 on January 28 in Room 282, City Hall and the tenants request support for a reversal of the AAB ruling. Letters may be written to Shirley Yawitz, Chairperson of the AAB. Mail to 450 McAllister, Room 301. For more information, call Eva Cheng at 391-4133.

OTHER ORGANIZING DEVELOPMENTS:  
250 TAYLOR: Owner Robert Imhoff has for years failed to maintain this 40-unit apartment building. He now wants to get rid of the longtime tenants in order to substantially rehabilitate this lucratively situated property. Tenants have beaten him in court, winning a jury trial in October and most recently, won a large relocation assistance order from the Board of Permit Appeals. Imhoff must pay the remaining tenants either \$4800 for temporary displacement or \$6000 if they agree not to return. The tenants were represented by Randy Shaw of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic.

CRYSTAL HOTEL: 130 Eddy/40 units. The tenants have successfully beaten back a block of retaliatory evictions by operator Mohammed Patel. Tenants are exploring new strategies for 1987.



# Challenging Renovations

## STRATEGIES FOR TENANTS: CHALLENGING RENOVATION PERMITS

It has become very clear in recent months that landlords are abusing their right to evict tenants in order to renovate or perform capital improvements on their buildings. Repeatedly, we are counselling tenants who have been told to move out "temporarily" in order to do work. All too often, a "temporary move is tantamount to permanent displacement. The goal then is to avoid moving in the first place.

As more tenants realize that the Rent Arbitration Board is incapable of effectively intervening in evictions, we see more tenants challenging their landlords at the time they obtain the necessary building permits. This can be an extremely effective method of getting the landlord to alter his/her plans and to provide the tenants with a more realistic and fair relocation package if a move is really needed for health or safety reasons.

Owners must apply to the Central Permit Bureau for the required building permits prior to beginning any work. After review by the appropriate plan checkers the actual permit is issued. If a tenant suspects that the landlord intends on evicting them for renovation work, a tenant must carefully monitor the permit process in order to file a timely appeal to the Board of Permit Appeals. The procedure is as follows.

(1) Write a brief letter to the Central Permit Bureau (450 McAllister, First Floor, SF 94102) asking to be immediately informed if and when any permits are issued to do work on the property in question. It is also a good idea to visit the Bureau weekly to inquire as to what the status of the permit application is. You may obtain a copy of the application from the Bureau. You also have the right to view any plans submitted although you may not copy these.

(2) Upon issuance of a permit, the tenant should file an appeal to the Board of Permit Appeals (City Hall, Room 154) within TEN DAYS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE. THIS IS CRITICAL. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC MANDATE FOR THE LANDLORD TO PROCEED WITH THE RENOVATION AS PLANNED. There is no official form to file. Appellants must write a letter explaining what the specific problems are with the owner's plans, such as the work is unnecessary to meet code requirements; the work will displace the residents and result in the loss of affordable rental housing; or the planned renovation will have a negative impact on the building or immediate area. Appellants must attach a copy of the permit application and pay a filing fee of \$75 (or prove indigency for a waiver of the fee.)

(3) The Board of Permit Appeals holds public hearings every Wednesday evening beginning at 5:00 in Room 282, City Hall. Both sides are allowed 15 minutes to present their case, after which the Board decides whether to uphold or overrule the Department that issued the permit. The Board may impose specific conditions on permits, e.g., require certain work to be altered; require the payment of relocation benefits to displaced tenants; or require that the work be done around the tenants rather than by clearing out the entire building.

As more tenants begin to assert their rights to challenge the landlords' renovation schemes, we may expect a more conservative stance taken by the policymakers, placing property rights over human rights. Court challenges by tenants and landlords would be likely. New laws will be promoted. This, of course, is nothing new. Throughout recent history, the tenant-landlord relationship has evolved in this way. If one reflects on where tenants rights stood just ten years ago, it is obvious that we have come a long way in ridding ourselves of the most arbitrary and disastrous rights granted the rental property owner. For most San Francisco tenants, we now have at least a fighting chance to remain in our homes, paying a rent within our means. As always, however, we continue the advancement of the basic need to have decent shelter for all people.

Art Agnos (D. San Francisco dropped his AB 3702 which would have authorized parties in an eviction suit to agree to a speedy tenant move if the landlord won.

GOV. NO Governor Deukmejian intensified his veto carnage last year. Since taking office he has vetoed over \$100 million in housing assistance for the poor and homeless.

In 1986 he vetoed: SB772 (Petrís) which would have prohibited discrimination based upon a tenant's source of income; AB 3180 (Roos) limiting the types of information which can be compiled and retained by tenant credit reporting agencies; AB 3920 (Roos) which would have strengthened state tax laws denying tax benefits to slumlords; SB 2107 (Petrís) for assisted rental housing inventory; SB 1892 (Carpenter) an arbitration project for mobilehome park tenants; and SB 2381 (Mello) establishing new Senior Housing Assistance Office.



# LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

by Michael Harney

The all new, Tenant Union legislative committee is now organizing. This means that January 1987 presents a sterling opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a most exciting and challenging endeavor. No experience necessary.

Even if you can't come to the first meeting--Wed. Jan 21 7:30 PM at 558 Capp St--give a call (995-2562) or write.

For far too long we have been sitting here at the Tenant Union advising tenant after tenant as to their paltry rights under the current landlord-lobby molded law. When our folks inquire as to the source of the legal disabilities and absurdities they face, what can we say? Oh, we can typically (and lamely) suggest perhaps somehow contacting the Mayor, the Supes, your Congressman, God, the Ayatollah, or... whatever.

Meanwhile the landlords, realtors, and the Chamber of Commerce are systematically crawling all over City Hall, buying votes right and left.

Obviously, given the sorry history of tenant rights in this "liberal tow" (ironically with a tenant majority), a stronger, principled and permanent renter's voice at City Hall, seems called for

(in Sacramento and Washington too, for that matter). And there needs to be a vehicle for individual Tenant Union members to pierce the special interest/insider veil the shields the concoction of governmental decisions that so dramatically effect their lives and homes.

## ISSUES

Issues for the legislative committee would of course include vacancy control and elimination of owner occupied exemptions and other loopholes in the Rent Law. Also: the Residential Hotel Law, Condo Conversions, Security Deposits, State preptions of local rent law (e.g. the Costa Bill), building and housing codes, "in-law" apartments, Rent Board Rules and Regulations, and the implementation of the newly passed Growth/Planning initiative Prop. M.

## TASKS

Tasks for the Legislative Committee:

**\*\*Monitor:** Legislation-- State and local; the Board of Supes; the Mayor's Office; the various: Boards, Commissions, Rules, Bills, Plots and Schemes.

**\*\*Compile Voting Records:** Who are our friends and who ain't.

**\*\*Testify at Public Hearings;** talk to politicians, bureaucrats, and the press; establish a Tenant Union "presence."

**\*\*Draft tenant oriented legislation** for submission by friendly pols.

**\*\*Work with other groups** lobbying on related housing and development issues;

Other Possible Roles: Spin-off committee to promote a Vacancy Control ballot proposition in 1988...also work on possible ballot measure for control of small owner occupied buildings currently exempted from SF Rent Control...Set up a SF Tenants Union Political Action Committee to formally endorse or oppose candidates and issues.

## MEETING DATES

First Organizational Meeting will be held on Wed Jan. 21st at 7:30 PM at the Tenant Union Offices at 558 Capp St., one block east of Mission St. near 21st St. (take #14 Mission Bus of BART to 24th ST Station.)

The February Meeting will be on Wed Feb. 11th at 7:30 PM-- also at 558 Capp St.

For more information and to be put on our mailing list call Michael Harney (995-2562) or write to Legislative Comm, SFTU, 558 Capp St., SF 94110.

## Letters-To-The-Editor

Re: "The RH Syndrome". Nov/Dec '86, Tenant Times.

Gentlemen or Ms.:

Congratulations on your expose of the many problems plaguing the Res Hotels in our city. Since coming to SF last December, I've had to survive in a wide variety of these places. Your article really hits home! I wish SF would try to emulate Oakland's plan of providing the necessary first and last deposits so that people like myself, living on a fixed, meager income (GA) would have the opportunity to "break the cycle" and move into a shared rental situation with roommates.

There is no excuse for the deteriorating physical condition (of my hotel), or the attitude towards residents by the hotel security staff, just because the majority of people living here have mental or substance abuse problems and are at their mercy and have no other hope or alternative to this hellhole. Your article was true to the point. It will be the best day in my life since coming to "The City of Peace and Love" and the sun will smile when I can move out of here to share a flat with regular roommates and have dignity and basic human amenities!

Respectfully Submitted,  
(Name withheld by request.)

## Join the SFTU

Why should I join the Tenants Union? TU members receive priority access to our staff of trained tenant counselors, both in person and over the phone on our members-only line. Whether it's a brief question or a complex crisis, our counselors can usually provide the answers you need regarding tenant/landlord law. If your case is beyond the scope of our counselors, we can also provide you with a list of attorneys who specialize in tenant law.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_  
(W) \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
LANDLORD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
# UNITS IN BLDG.: \_\_\_\_\_  
# BEDROOMS IN UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT RENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 LOW INCOME  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 REGULAR  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 HOUSEHOLD  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 SUSTAINER

I'd like to volunteer also:

\_\_\_\_\_ TENANT COUNSELING  
\_\_\_\_\_ NEWSLETTER  
\_\_\_\_\_ LEGISLATIVE WORK  
\_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZING  
\_\_\_\_\_ FUNDRAISING  
\_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE WORK  
\_\_\_\_\_ OUTREACH  
\_\_\_\_\_ DIRECT ACTION

Members receive a subscription to this newsletter. You'll also get our Tenants Rights Handbook, a resource which will swiftly turn you into a tenant counselor of sorts in the eyes of your friends and neighbors.

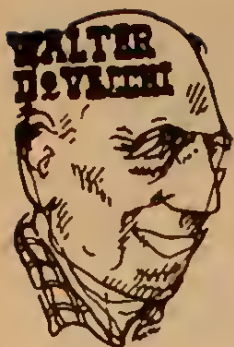
Beyond the obvious practical benefits of joining the TU, members also become part of a growing and vocal constituency committed to saving affordable housing in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Lower income tenants are being priced out of San Francisco, a trend which can only be stopped by an informed and active coalition of tenants.

If you wish to join the TU, please fill out the form below and mail it in with a check or money order to the SFTU at 558 Capp Street, S.F., CA, 94110. When we receive your application, we'll send you the members-only phone number and our Handbook.

PUZZLE ANSWER: WRONG NUMBER

This issue of the Tenant Times was written and produced by James Faye, Michael Harney, Andree Lagerstedt, and Jess Grant. The photo is by Martin Klimeck. Letters, graphics, and articles are welcome from member and non-member alike. Articles and letters should be typed (double-spaced) and addressed to the SFTU c/o the Editor.





## SOME DEEP HOLES

### RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

There just doesn't seem to be any end to the changes that take place in downtown San Francisco. This city, bordered on three sides by water, can't very well expand so it just changes. Some people call it improvement and, I suppose, in some cases it is.

When I heard that the Board of Education had finally turned loose of that old eyesore at 5th and Market Streets, I rejoiced. Now a brand new, and hopefully beautiful, piece of architecture will grace that fine corner. Once Bob Lurie had cleaned up his handsome building on the west side of Fifth Street, all that was left to do in order to make the Halladie Plaza area into one of the beauty spots of this City was to improve, what I call, the old Lincoln Grammar School corner. Though long overdue, at last it will become a reality.

I asked my writer, who calls himself "The Ghost", to go down there and take a look at what I had been told was nothing but a huge hole in the ground. Well, he comes back and tells me that they have even gutted the big old Parkersham Hotel, right by the big hole on Fifth Street, and are in the process of rebuilding the whole inside of it! In a couple of years this street will look so nice that maybe - just maybe - Uncle Sam will be shamed into giving the Old Mint a face-wash.

The old Lincoln Grammar School, which was the alma mater of many famous people of years gone by, had been remembered by a big brass plaque that was affixed to the side of the building that was put up after the Earthquake and Fire of '06 and has now been demolished. I hope that the historical plaque will reappear on the side of the new structure so that, far into the future, people will read it and know that this corner of San Francisco has an important role in its history.

I might mention that another great school got its start just down the street where the Emporium now sits. In the very early years, when this area was called St. Anne's Valley, a couple of Italian Jesuits sailed through the Gate and proceeded to erect, on this site, a small church which they dedicated to St. Ignatius Loyola. Along in the mid-1850s, they put up a one room school next door which grew and became the foundation for the great St. Ignatius College. From that institution we now have the very important University of San Francisco. This beginning is not to be confused with Bishop Alemany's first St. Patrick's Church and Orphanage which had been dedicated a few years before on the property where the Palace Hotel is now.

Speaking of St. Patrick's church, I am told that the biggest and deepest hole of all of the great downtown holes runs from the west side of the church all the way to Fourth Street and, in back of the church, all the way to Market Street. Eventually the Marriott Hotel along with the Yerba Buena Gardens will cover this area. All I can say is that it sure is taking them a long time to replace all the buildings they tore down for the "Yerba Buena Project". Up to this time, all we've gotten out of that massive demolition is the Moscone Center which was planned and built so poorly that it has started to leak! Any fool knows that when you put a heavy building in the middle of old marsh land, unless you caulk it like a ship, it's going to leak!

I was thinking about how the south side of Market Street used to look before being defaced by the Yerba Buena. I worked there; just across from the beautiful Phelan Building and the foot of Grant Avenue. This was back in the late thirties and it may come as a surprise to many people to know that, in those years, the block from Third to Fourth Street had no less than three movie theaters and all the small businesses that go with them. The California Theater (later, the State) was on one side of the Humboldt Bank Building, which stood through the 1906 Disaster and has recently been extensively remodeled, while the smaller Portola Theater was on the other. Down closer to Third Street was the little Hub Theater; a third-run "flea house".

Two first class food markets were in this long block. Grant Market, owned by Bercut-Richards (meat packers), was run by Jean Bercut who was probably the best butcher in town. The meats and also the fruits and vegetables in that store were the finest to be found anywhere. Jean Bercut kept a small dining room upstairs for the sole purpose of

serving excellent mid-day meals to his special friends. Grant Market was next door to the huge Schwacacher-Frey stationary and office supply store which was in the still-standing Bancroft Building. West of them, and up a few floors, was the old Spreckles Market (Fancy Grocers and Importers) which later became the 747 Market.

Consider, for a moment, the long gap in that block that stretches from the Bancroft Building to the big old Humboldt Bank Building. In that space there were three restaurants: Manning's, The Golden Rule Cafe, where I used to eat, and the big Bell Cafeteria. Hale Bros. had an appliance store, Greyhound had a ticket office and so did Gray Line Sight-seers up by the Portola Theater. There were other things there, too, but my memory fogs up when I try to think of them.

I am not really up to snuff this holiday season because earlier this month I buried my wonderful wife who was almost my whole support system. Now, after all these years together, I must learn to live alone... with my memories.

Speaking of memories, people are always calling or dropping into ask questions about various places and/or things around the City and what I remember about them.

Yesterday a couple of guys were here telling me about the big hole in the ground at First and Mission and Minna Streets. "Well," I said, "I knew all those old, trashy buildings were gone; and good riddance! Nothing of historical value was lost here."

"Oh yeah?" one of them said, "how about the Navy Fleet Post Office on Minna where all the mail for the Pacific war was handled?"

"You mean the place across from Larry Barrett's garage?" I asked. "Well, if you were out in the Pacific in World War II, I suppose it was a very important place, to you."

"Okay," he said smugly, "how about the very deep hole at Stockton and O'Farrell streets? What used to be there?"

"Helwig's Bakery was the only thing around there worth remembering," I answered, "but, next door, where the big garage is now, stood the 'Old' Orpheum Theater. Now that's a place that held many good memories for us old timers."

"Sure, I can remember that," he said, "and the Hippodrome was across the street. O'Farrell was a good theater street, what with the Alcazar and Tivoli up above Powell."

"Hold up there!" I exclaimed, "the Tivoli wasn't on O'Farrell, pal. It was down on Eddy Street."

Bill Hopkins, my ghost writer, had come in a few minutes before, and he sat listening to all this.

I turned to him then and said: "I'm glad you heard that. Now you know what I have to put up with around here." Then I told him:

"Accuracy should always be the rule when anybody is writing about, or discussing, anything historical in San Francisco. This city is going through more and more changes as the years go by and we've just got to try and keep up with them."

Then I asked him: "Can you tell us when the biggest change took place here?"

"Sure," said he, "the biggest change of all took place in 1906."

The Ghost is getting smarter all the time.

[The staff of the North Mission News wishes to express their sincere condolences to Walter DeVecchi on the loss of his wife Ruth (82) who died on December 4th. Mr. and Mrs. DeVecchi were married for 27 years.]

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After a bone-warming egg flower soup at the Chinese 6-seater with booths next to the Roxie, Que? breaks open her fortune cookie and heads straight into the heart of this month's column. Her fortune reads: "Having no answers to questions does not make you stop asking them."

In the spirit of fortune, friends of slain artist Steven (Sylvan) Moses are keeping up their end of the dialogue with Inspector Crowley, the officer in charge of the ongoing investigation into events surrounding the November 15th murder. At about 9 PM that evening, Steven Moses stopped to make a call at the phone booth on the corner of 24th and York, on his way to the York Theater, and was cut down without motive, fatally shot in what falls into the category of a "thrill kill" said Inspector Crowley.

Two of the artist's drawings appear in the latest issue

of BEEF, testament to the fact that the as-yet-unapprehended murderer's victim drew with the inspiration of a Goya or Munch. This talent leaves the world after only 23 years. Steven's friends hope to convince Galeria de la Raza to have a show of the diverse art -- paintings, drawings, writings -- that survive him. Look for notices of this event. Also, take note of the flyer showing up on billboards around the neighborhood asking for information about the murder. Inspector Crowley wants to hear from witnesses at 553-1145; you can remain anonymous and a reward will be offered for any information leading to an arrest.

Another question without answer: Who was responsible for painting over the Free South Africa mural? Not even Lou Lillian, director of "S.F. Alive" and Mayor Feinstein, it's intellectual author, know for sure. And they were there. To his credit, however, Lou Lillian, commander-in-chief of the 280 strong force erasing graffiti that Saturday, December 6, said he is willing to make amends to the muralists. In Lou's words, the erasure above the Pit at 16th and Valencia was an oversight in the line of "clean sweep" street cleaning and graffiti erasing duty, one that he personally regrets.

Will the artists responsible for the mural call the North Mission News (626-2882) and identify themselves; then you can recuperate funds for paint and do it again. I have it on faith from the office of Lou Lillian that you will not be prosecuted for "vandalism" or "defacing private property". Right, Lou? Lou, are you there?

If this were "mural gate" we would have to place ultimate culpability for the mix-up with the mayor herself, whether her deft hands were on the errant paint can or not. Is there a law against city government vandalism, a proviso against defacing private art?

It's lucky for us that the zealous with their paint cans full of drab brown and grey missed the stencil of the Latin American woman with raised fist that has been appearing on walls throughout the Mission. And she's hard to miss. She's rallying for support at the corner of Capp and 23rd, along Mission between 24th and 25th, and underneath the freeway, up from the Welfare department. Her mouth is open as though calling or yelling for her rights, the return of her disappeared children, her dead husband.

Ssh... maybe the last question should not be asked. I'll whisper it -- "Who is responsible for this brilliant image on our streets?" -- so as not to invite the "vandals" out from behind the walls.



VICTIM OF TERRORIST ATTACK



SURVIVOR OF TERRORIST ATTACK, Photo by M. Collins

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3163 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

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### LIGUSTRUM AND SCHIZANDRA

- by Misha Cohen, C.A.

This article continues where we left off in the last month's issue. The next two herbs in the immune tonic (an immune system stimulant) are covered here.

Ligustrum is particularly used to strengthen the kidney, especially the Kidney Yin and Kidney Jing (Essence). This herb is used as a tonic for people who are debilitated and whose body may be wasting away. It is used traditionally for such symptoms as dizziness, floaters, low back pain, premature greying, ringing in the ears, and fevers from tuberculosis.

The part of the plant used is the fruit and in Chinese it is known as Nu Zhen Zi. The way this herb works is primarily as an immune enhancer, compatible with its reputation as a kidney tonic in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Schizandra has been found to be particularly effective in strengthening the liver, and treats hepatitis effectively. The success rate in a group of 102 patients with hepatitis in lowering the SGPT levels was 72% and the average time in which the liver enzymes returned to normal was 25 days.

There is a strong effect on the central nervous system. Schizandra strengthens and quickens reflexes in humans, helping to overcome stress and fatigue.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, Schizandra is classified as a Qi tonifying herb and a kidney tonifying herb. It is used to stop coughing and asthma. It has an astringent effect and helps to stop diarrhea, commonly found in people with AIDS/ARC. It is also used for frequent and night urination, as well as seminal emission at night. Schizandra is very good for stopping excessive sweating -- both during the day and nightsweats. It also has the characteristic of calming the mind and helping the memory, which are functions of the heart in Chinese Medicine.

### SURVIVING AIDS: ALTERNATIVE HEALING UPDATE

- by Misha Cohen, C.A.

The past year has been a very exciting year for people involved with alternative and natural therapies, especially in working with AIDS and ARC. The Comprehensive Program for People Diagnosed with AIDS/ARC was established and is continuing. The San Francisco AAHP began a referral service to give information on alternative practitioners and therapies. The AIDS Healing Alliance was begun and is beginning to bring more hope into the community of people threatened with AIDS/ARC diagnoses. Several books have been published on alternative approaches to AIDS. More and more people with AIDS and ARC who have been long-term survivors are coming out of the woodwork and are telling their stories.

Next year promises to be even better. The AIDS Healing Alliance will be looking for funding through grants to develop stronger programs for people with AIDS and ARC. The Comprehensive Program will continue and we know of at least

one other similar program which will begin early next year in the East Bay. We will let you know as soon as more alternative healing programs are in progress.

One exciting development is that the SFAAHP has raised some money and had more presence in the community. On Saturday, February 7, the Dance Brigade will be presenting a benefit performance at the Performance Gallery on 17th St. You can get tickets at Modern Times, Old Wives Tales and Quan Yin Acupuncture and Herb Center. The Blazing Redheads, a hot Bay Area women's salsa/jazz/dance band will also be doing a benefit in March.

Looking forward to a healthy and productive year. Join with us!

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## BOARD GAMES

- by Nick Hornsfelt

Welcome to 1987 or, as I like to think of it, 1984 plus three: Reagan, North and Poindexter.

On the local scene, it was disclosed today that the Board of Supervisors has, over the past year, sold 3.5 million dollars worth of "MOM & POP Store" permits to Iranian immigrants for an estimated 100 million dollars, a profit of 70 million.

Supposedly, these profits then went into secret Hong Kong bank accounts to be used to finance a war on graffiti and skateboards. The money was used to buy 100,000 "dribble markers", magic markers designed to leak. The markers were covertly distributed to teen graffiti artists who could then be easily nabbed by police on the lock-out for ink-stained hands and shirt pockets.

In the skateboard battles, the Supervisors authorized the purchase of 15,000 "pointy" umbrellas and 10,000 "big, old fashioned" hat pins to be distributed to concerned citizens wishing to protect themselves from "sidewalk space invaders". This has unleashed a wave of carnage the likes of which has never been seen in the streets of San Francisco or even on The Streets of San Francisco.

Although most people agree that we should exploit immigrants until they are dry (this is an American tradition), the question is the morality of using these funds to finance attacks against urbane gorillas. Has the Board acted illegally and, if so, did the Mayor know of their actions, or even order them?

Besides the question of legality, where is the rest of the money? 100,000 "dribble markers", 15,000 "pointy" umbrellas and 10,000 "big, old fashioned" hat pins isn't going to run over a half million dollars, once you find a hat pin manufacturer who isn't dealing with the South Africans. 69 1/2 million dollars is a lot of executive lunches!

When asked to comment, Madam Mayor said "I know nothing, I saw nothing, I did nothing. I have been very busy trying to find a new career and hairdo to match. Besides, after next year I plan to be in Washington, so who cares about this stuff. I just want to get out as soon as possible before the whole city falls apart."

"Now if you'll excuse me, the City Planning Commission and I have a meeting with some Disney people to swap ideas, then I must rush to the Yacht Club to speak at a fund raiser for an organization near and dear to my heart, Seriously Liberal, Unemployed Social Humanitarians - S.L.U.S.H."

It is this reporter's opinion that the Board was only attempting to carry out the Mayor's wishes, no matter how badly they bungled it. There are indications that she had been briefed and, when she is de-briefed, I for one want to be there.

Some members of the media have said that this scandal has been destructive to the Mayor's office and she will serve out the rest of her term as a "lame dame". I say, why should the rest of her term be any different from her entire political career? The voters of San Francisco must realize: "We elected these people, now we're stuck with them!"

I say, let us support our politicians, it's the American thing to do, besides, without them I'd be doing restaurant reviews for this rag.

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## JOBS JOBS JOBS

Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) announces employment opportunities to assist disabled and elderly San Franciscans in their own homes. The work includes household chores like shopping, meal preparation, vacuuming and cleaning as well as personal care duties such as assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing and toilet routines.

Pay starts at \$4.00 per hour and most of the jobs are part-time. Come to ILRC at 4426 Cabrillo (near 45th Avenue) or call 751-8765 for further information.

There is a registration fee for all job applicants.

## FOOD NEEDED

Food is needed for hungry families, according to the Emergency Food Box Program, San Francisco major food pantry. The demand is up from last year and a heavy increase in requests for food is expected through the winter.

The program provides an emergency supply of food so that families need not stand in demeaning lines at soup kitchens. Non-perishable canned and packaged food, as well as funds, are needed.

Now in its seventh year, the Emergency Food Box Program grew out of combined efforts of churches in the central city. It draws its primary support from donations of food and funds from religious congregations and concerned individuals, and works with 50 social service agencies which refer clients and work with them to find long-term solutions to their problem.

85% of food box recipients are women and children. Only 15% ask for food a second time.

For more information, contact the Food Box at 621-7575.

## FREE FOOD

Sup. John L. Molinari has extended an invitation to the North Mission Association (whoever you are) to attend his "Thank You San Francisco Party" Jan. 8, 5:30-7:30 PM at the Opera House Promenade at Van Ness and Grove. Rumor has it that refreshments will be free and plentiful.

Coincidentally (?), Sup. Nancy Walker's inaugural bash occurs later the same night in the same neighborhood. Since these two powerful pols are known to disagree on many issues such as renters' rights and accountable planning, the "party wars" might be said to kick off the New Year's political season which is sort of as if the USFL stayed around all summer and played the NFL superbowl winner in a November "Ultrabowl"... and it may be interesting to see who attends each party and who chooses to dodge Civic Center traffic trying to cover all bases.

## COMEDY

Triple award winning comedian Tom Ammiano will appear in an evening of fun and comedy, beginning with a brief visual presentation of PLACA-NICA's recently completed mural in Nicaragua 8:30 - 10 PM, Friday, January 16th at El Rio, 3158 Mission Street. For further information, call 540-0507.

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# NEW EVICTION LAWS

- by Brian Doohan

Under the terms of anti-eviction legislation introduced by Sup. John Molinari and unanimously approved, limited protections will be afforded San Francisco renters including more comprehensive record-keeping at the Rent Board, a relocation payment of \$1,000 for those temporarily displaced by construction, and random eviction investigation by the District Attorney's office.

But tenant organizations such as the San Francisco Housing and Tenants' Council charge that the legislation is inadequate. They believe it stems more from Sup. Molinari's desire to deflect attention from his votes against vacancy-control (the lack of which is cause of many evictions) and to gain support for a projected 1987 mayoral race.

"This is the first political mailer of 1987," stated Dave Brigade of SFHTC at hearings before the Supervisors, in reference to a letter by Molinari's campaign committee urging renters to support his legislation.

Some did. "I'm for anything against landlords," said one elderly tenant, "and I'm looking at our next mayor."

But others who received the Molinari mailer disagreed. "I came thinking it was a good bill, but found it is another ploy on tenants," declared Sam Bennett.

"I will have to move when I turn 62," confessed a middle-aged woman, "and you won't see my dust! Your law is too weak," she told the Supervisor. "I came in the belief you wanted something done."

"Eviction is my Christmas bonus," complained one Mission tenant. How dare you, Mr. Molinari, manipulate my anguish and despair for political propaganda! You are a disgrace!"

Tenant lobbyists pointed out that no tenant groups were consulted and that increased paperwork will reduce the efficiency of both the rent board and District Attorney. (See related story in the Tenant Times.)

The random investigations were compared to urine tests which serve only to harass law-abiding landlords with more cumbersome bureaucracy and reduce the time and staff that the DA can spare for legitimate tenant complaints. The legislation makes no provision for increasing the staff of either the DA or the Rent Board which has led to contentions that the new law's intent is to tie those bodies up with paperwork. "We'll need at least one more person," stated Delene Wolf of the Rent Board, who anticipates asking for a supplemental staffing appropriation meaning... yes... either more tax dollars or cutbacks in other services.

Molinari waxed indignant at the tenants' testimony. "What I perceived as necessary, straightforward legislation is impugned." He stated that "the world of the possible" was six votes and the Mayor's signature.

This provoked Sup. Willie Kennedy to reply that "there are votes for vacancy control, but the problem is across the hall (referring to the Mayor's veto power)." She agreed to support the bill only when the relocation payment was doubled from Molinari's original \$500 figure.

"Half a loaf is better than none and a few bites are better than half," summed up Sup. Carol Silver. But it seems evident that the eviction issue will stay lively through the new year, and that renters will demand more than a few bites (possibly, even, the proverbial pound of political flesh).

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After ten years of printing for the community, the Women's Press has decided to close its doors effective January 1, 1987.

Our closure is due to a number of factors, primarily financial. Over the years we've been committed to serving a community that's been hardest hit by Reaganomics. That directly affects us. As a grassroots organization, we've never had any capital or surplus to work with. Our equipment needs upgrading in order to maintain quality and cost efficiency. In addition, due to burnout, several of our longtime members have decided to move on and it has been difficult finding replacements.

We've tried to consider every option for staying open as a women's union print shop, but that is not possible for us. Our first preference is to sell the business to interested women. We've built a solid reputation in the com-

munity, and with some financial investment and energy, there is potential for the Women's Press to continue and grow. We are also considering: 1) selling the equipment and lease to progressive people; 2) selling the equipment and lease to a commercial shop; and 3) selling the equipment piece by piece and finding someone to take over the lease. Please help us pass the word that we are looking for buyers. Interested people should call us at 626-4477 for an appointment. We'll be returning calls throughout January.

To all of you who have offered your support over the years, we thank you. We couldn't have made it this far without you.

— Julie Twichell  
Lisa Mischke  
Josie Brown  
Lee Mosswood  
Cheryl DeYoung  
Bo Brown  
Anne Johnston  
San Francisco

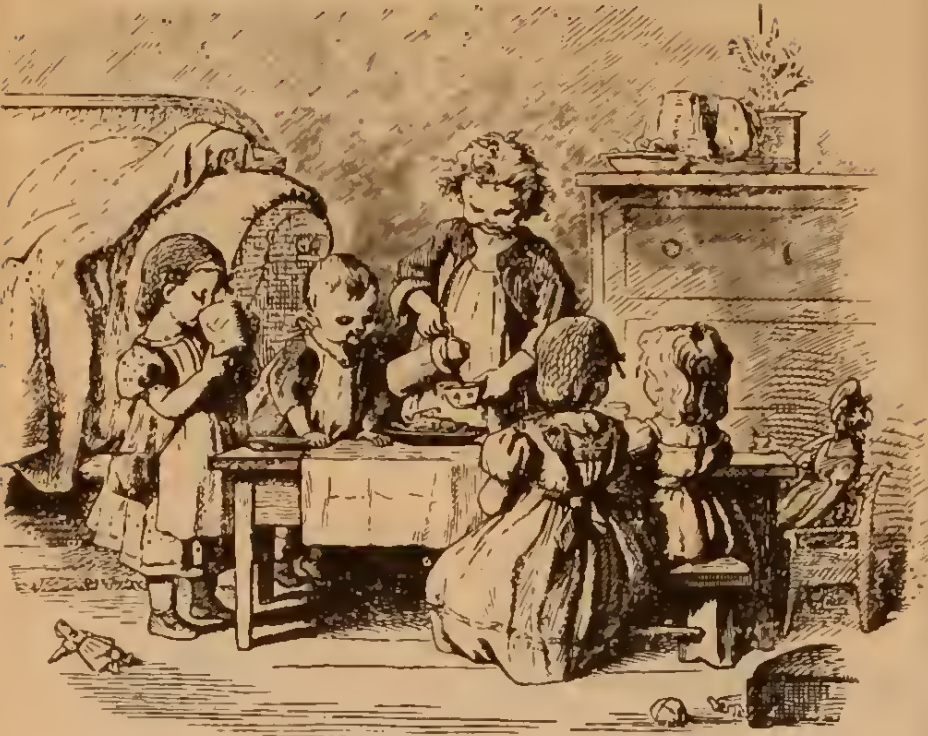
## —PERSONAL—

WHOEVER FOUND MY "MUG ROOT BEER" BAG  
AT THE CLARION JAN. 29 PLEASE bring  
it BACK there —

i NEED the burglars' tools AND ART  
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# LATCHKEY NOTES



- by K. E. Hones

A third of your child's school year has passed already! A no-cost way to extend your child's learning is homework. A sample of homework times for elementary students is:

Grade K-2	5 - 10 minutes a day
Grade 3-4	10 - 20 minutes a day
Grade 5-6	20 - 40 minutes a day

Check with teachers if you are concerned with too much or too little homework. Plan with your child a regular time and place for homework studies.

If part of your child's schedule includes being home alone after school, here is a checklist that may help:

1. Plan the after school schedule together with your child.
2. Establish a routine... easier and comforting for a child.
3. Be clear about what is expected and what is permitted.
4. Leave a welcome home note or tape in a special place.
5. At a prearranged time call and ask, "How was your day?" and review any scheduled plans.
6. On a regular basis, review emergency procedures.
7. Ask your child what is the hardest part of coming home alone and talk about what could be done to change and make things less difficult.
8. It is reassuring to talk about positive actions to take when afraid or worried.
9. Early in the school year, have your child visit your worksite. Take a picture of yourself at work to put near the phone at home.
10. Make a phone chart with your child.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

- Put clothes in laundry basket
- Stack books and magazines
- Hang up your own jacket, coat and clothes
- Help with laundry: match socks, fold clothes and towels
- Set the alarm for morning wake-up
- Choose school clothes (HINT: Put all clothes and school supplies in one place each night... no early morning searches!)
- Clear the plates from the table to the sink
- Make your own bed

AND for anyone eight years old and over .....

- Put away all toys, games and "Stuff"
- Make a simple breakfast Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri
- Pack your own lunch (the night before) Sun Mon Tues Wed Thur
- Dust around the house (HINT: Make a dust buster sockpuppet. Use an old sock and add eyes, nose and a big mouth to "gobble up" all the dust)
- Clean the bathroom sink and hang up your own towel



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## Tom Ferentz



SOCIAL CONDUCT: MISSION GRAFICA

Printmaking has had a significant impact on modern art, in great part due to its being the first form of visual art that was easily reproducible in large quantities. Because of this, it has not only attacked notions of preciousness based on singularity, it also, at different stages of its history, has dramatized the potentials for an economical and easily disseminable form of art. Claims made for video's potential for being a populist, non-elitist art form are strikingly similar to actual uses of printmaking in post-revolutionary Russia, in Spain around the time of the Spanish Civil War, and more recently in Cuba, from the 1960's on.

Rene Castro and Jos Sanchez, founders and directors of Mission Grafica, the graphics component of the Mission Cultural Center, cite these periods as being particularly influential upon them in devising the intents and purposes behind Mission Grafica. Their mission, as they describe it, was to raise the aesthetic level of political posters. They saw most political posters as modeled after styles set in the 1960's, characterized by a graphic style resembling woodcuts, such as the stencil-like image of the clenched fist that used to be around everywhere. Wanting to apply their extensive abilities in printmaking to community needs, they established Mission Grafica in 1981. Since then, they have been making silkscreens for many organizations, both profit and non-profit, as well as for individuals, with a commitment to artistic quality and leftist politics.

Castro received his training in printmaking in Chile, Sanchez in New York. Both concur around the idea that making political art in a capitalist society is a difficult and contradictory prospect. Art always becomes a commodity in some manner, they both say, offering as examples the careers of two artists they both admire, Hans Haake and Leon Golub. Both are political artists, but Castro cannot reconcile such things as the \$7-8,000 price tags put on Golub paintings with political intentions. This is too much of a contradiction for him. While Sanchez has a less negative view on this subject in respect to these two artists, neither seeks this method of survival for themselves.

Interestingly, they do not see it as impossible to elevate their own economic positions by making prints in the capitalist system. Sanchez has had work accepted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, one of the most prestigious accomplishments for an artist in the United States. Castro was invited to participate in the International Printmaking Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1986 and receives other international recognition of his work. Both have amassed numerous credits to their names, credits of the sort sought after by many artists in order to achieve the recognition and success that leads to personal status and financial gain.

Yet it is projects like the recent exhibition "Buscando America" at La Raza Graphics Gallery on Valencia and Liberty Streets that is more characteristic of what these artists are up to. This exhibit, which will travel throughout the Americas, consists of eighteen limited edition silkscreen prints made by thirteen artists that are available at street prices. The project was organized by Mission Grafica, the printing itself done by Castro and Sanchez. This exhibit, which has extended its stay at La Raza Graphics into the first weeks of January, attests to the high standards and social commitment of Mission Grafica.

Mission Grafica's accessibility and responsiveness to the community have made it indispensable to community organizers planning events. Similar to the way the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval functions in some other parts of society, posters by Mission Grafica functions in ours. In order to take advantage of Mission Grafica's reputation, some businesses and corporations have, on occasion,

commissioned posters. Recent unlikely customers include McDonald's, which operates at Twenty-Fourth and Mission... as we all know. Because Mission Grafica sometimes accepts work from shady customers like this, it has come under criticism from some parts of the political community. However, as Castro and Sanchez pointed out, they run a professional shop that not only produces distinctive work, but is attentive to health and safety standards such as having good ventilation.

Running such a shop is not free. The high prices they charge customers like McDonald's enables them to carry out many projects for clients with low budgets. In fact, they say that no one is turned down by Mission Grafica, although local contra and right-wing Cuban groups have been given the runaround... so much so that they have never returned. Furthermore, out of the half-dozen or more community print shops of a similar nature that have operated in San Francisco few remain due to economic instability. In this context, Mission Grafica is a model for surviving with integrity.

## Community Mural Project 1985 - 1986



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Clifford Woods on sax, B. J. at the piano, and anonymous couple on the smooch at the Albion Club

## JAZZ SURVIVES

- by Lynn Wildey

Despite the fact that jazz musicians often get paid only \$5.00 an hour for a lifetime of devotion to their art, the walk-in trade, surprisingly, is quite lively at small bars, cafes and restaurants in the Mission. At no cover you can hear jazz regularly at Cafe Babar (Wed. night 9 PM), Cafe Nidal (Sun. 3PM) and intermittently at Clarion, Bajones, Albion, El Rio & Zorba's.

North Mission News interviewed some business owners about the state of the art and the money. Alvin Stillman at Cafe Babar pays musicians a hair better than most, but only because, he says "I happen to dig it, it's an indulgence," adding that his club only seats 25 people, so it's economically unfeasible. Alvin has an impressive list of guest artists including Tom Schwenlander, Mark Kennedy, Clifford Woods, Tony Pagano, Kermit Scott, Harvey Rabb and Tom Solinger.

At Bajones, Johnny was vociferous. He had jazz for eight years and quit to cater to the younger fusion and dance trade. Johnny plans to have jazz evenings in 1987 and leave the cover off to cater to customers. He says there is a jazz drought for local musicians because big clubs bring in big names and the Bay Area jazz audience (which he estimates at 1,000 steady clubgoers) tends to spurn local talent. Johnny blames local musicians for not promoting themselves more, and being snobby. He says the definition of a local musician is someone you have to vacuum off before they go on stage. He says a resident is someone who goes around the country and comes back, but a local just hangs around town. This paper, having viewed some impressive resumes of current Mission district entertainers finds this to be not true. Johnny, however, pays bands \$150 - \$200 a night.

Nader at Cafe Nidal says jazz really packs his place with customers and creates a comfortable non-friction atmosphere of aesthetics. He says when Clifford Woods and Bobby Pitman play by the window it really brings people in. He plans to have them (with Michael Jones along) through January. Nader only pays the musicians \$20 and a free lunch (all-they-can-eat) for three hours' work, but enthusiastically passes the kitty to subsidize music.

Other clubs find a kitty to be 'demeaning', a view not shared by musicians. This makes for low pay. Recently, after belting out a massive four hour set at one neighborhood bar B. J. on piano and Clifford Woods on sax made \$20 each while the kitty sat ignored next to the stage because owners wouldn't announce or pass it.

But the jazz goes on, and we're lucky to have a neighborhood which makes some allowance for talent. Enjoy listening, and don't forget to tip the cats.

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## POET TO BOB KAUFMAN

TO LEAP BURNING THROUGH SMOULDERING CORES OF BROKEN HEARTS  
COMMANDING THE WIND INTO PURE GREEN GESTURES  
GOLDEN EYES SLANTING ARCHES OF NUMINOUS GYPSY SONG  
AMID PILLARS OF FIRE TO REACH THE SKY WAVING  
PENNANTS OF TATTERED GLORY, A QUIET THUNDER RUMBLE  
I HAVE SEEN YOU POET, AFRICAN WANDERER  
CONJURE SPHERES WHICH THE SOUL IS KNOWN TO INHABIT  
SAILOR OF THE SEVEN SEAS WITH YOUR DIVINE MYSTERY  
YOUR FORLORN STAFF  
HOW YOU SPELLED SILENCE TO SEVENTH THOUSAND  
AN UNPRECEDENTED HUSH, FOR THE UNKNOWN WALKED WITH YOU,  
BELOVED.

AND WE CANNOT FORGET  
"A THOUSAND MILES OF TWISTED STEEL"  
THROUGH WHICH WRACKED & HAUNTED BY TANGLED CEMENT  
BY GORGEOUS MELODIES OF ETERNAL GYRES  
RAKING ATOMIC DUST FROM THE BONES OF ANCIENT TEMPLE  
IN THE RAIN, CLOTHED IN HAIR, SKIN, REMNANTS  
OF FORGOTTEN KISSES, WE WALKED WITH YOU.  
POETS, IN A CITY OF POETS, SAN FRANCISCO.  
CITY OF IVORY DOORS, OF SAND & PINE.

BOB KAUFMAN YOUR LAUGHTER FILLS DOORWAYS  
& SHABBY HOTEL ROOMS  
YOU DINED UPON POETRY & CROWNS  
EMBRACED MISTY STREETS IN THROBBING JAZZ MIDNIGHTS  
WEAVING STARSTREWN TERRITORIES OF ROSE PETAL, ILLUMINANT MOON  
IN SALOONS STREAMING BEAUTIFUL FISH  
FROM MIRRORS OF DAWN, AMONG GREAT GODDESSES  
& THE ARTISTS OF TIME  
WHO IMPRINT YOUR NAME FOREVER UPON INEFFABLE GONGS  
WHICH CHIME AS AEONS REVOLVE

NOW FLAMBOYANT SEAHAWKS CIRCLE SLOWLY  
ABOVE THE PLACE OF YOUR ASHES IN THE HAY  
OFF THE POINT OF NORTH BEACH  
IS IT ANY WONDER AS ASHES & SEAS PUME MINGLED  
THAT A RAINBOW ARCHED ABOVE  
FROM ANGEL ISLAND TO TELEGRAPH HILL  
MAN OF THE SEA RETURNING  
TO THE SOUNDS OF 'THE BIRD' SCREAMED.

WE CANNOT FORGET THIS LEGACY CHARGED WITH WEeping  
BLOOD OF AFRICA ON THE AMERICAN SHORE, BLOOD OF THE PEOPLE  
SILENCE & WEeping, WEeping & SILENCE

OH HUMANITY, FROM THIS CITY, ON PACIFIC BREEZES  
VOICES RING OUT, HEAR THEM NOW, HUMANITIES MUST PREVAIL.

- by Lynne Wildey

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# COMPLAINT DEPT.

- by: Bill E. Badd

## THE BAYONET

To all you baddsters and baddettes check out this number with your Bay Area Rapid Transit district. Case #86-27316, Notice to Appear #430163-6 which indicates a violation of 640 (B) P.C. (misuse of Transit Discount Ticket). Now if you think that this column and any of the others are a personal vendetta of a disgruntled writer, this incident actually happened on 11/10/86 and before I get to the point here, I want to inform you that the energy of the Mission District is not a rusted machine nor a stray dog. This is a shoot-up machine. A bayonet.

A BART ranger, John Olsen, star #132, caught me personally with an expired MUNI card which he told me was needed to validate my BART card. When you purchase a discount BART card, you need to display an up-dated discount MUNI card. Mine was two months overdue. Yeah. I'm guilty of it, but I didn't know you had to have one that was valid in order to buy a BART discount card. I simply just bought the card and was given it right in front of the person who issued it to me illegally. Then, while writing up the Notice To Appear ticket, Olsen asked me my social security number and in the citation he wrote it as SS # something or other, not my real number which I swear I gave him. He put it under the space provided for your driver's license and I don't even have a driver's license! Little does he know that men here such as myself sometimes vomit 10" worms, have teeth fall from the gums, drop down to 95 lbs. and have to eat half-boiled rice and be unfit to love anyone.

See, this is just but one reason you people call me Bill E. Badd because I'm not putting up with this misuse and pray during this new year you won't need to see a priest and speaking of religion... Mother Teresa needs [CENSORED]. Her [CENSORED] gives me the creeps.



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